

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Randall L. Findley, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/977,045

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Title: PROGRAMMABLE FEEDBACK DELAY PHASE-LOCKED  
LOOP FOR HIGH-SPEED INPUT/OUTPUT TIMING BUDGET  
MANAGEMENT AND METHOD OF OPERATION THEREOF

Grp./A.U.: 2611

Examiner: Kevin Kim

Confirmation No.: 3709

OK  
TO  
EWM  
11/13/06

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT SUBMITTED WITH RCE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)**

Before continuing examination of the above-identified application, please refer to the below arguments and amend the claims as indicated.